

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

I'm sure you have all been listening to those firey speakers from Texas who have just provided the Democratic Convention with its most dramatic moments. The fight to see which Texas delegation is seated is still on. For a time it looked as though both delegations would be seated, each delegate to get half a vote.

Well, the Democrats are putting on quite a show -- as they always do.

There was plenty of drama behind the scenes at the Convention here in Chicago today, and much of it was not out in the open. All of it centered around the Vice Presidency. At noon, the nomination looked likely for Seantor Harry Truman of Missouri, according to the majority of the political reporters. But early this afternoon that picture changed when somebody threw a bombshell into the parade and the man who threw it was Mayor Ed Kelly of Chicago, potene in Democratic circles

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and hitherto a strong rooter for Truman. Kelly suddenly announced that he had changed his mind on the ground that the Missouri Senator doesn't want the job. Half an hour later, Truman, in so many words, told the United Press that he is not a candidate for the nomination but will accept if the delegates insist.

The Missouri Senator is a vastly different figure in National affairs today from what he was when he first became a Senator ten years ago. Then he was a Judge un- heard of outside his own county. He was nominated by the Democrats for the Senatorship as a compromise candidate, nominated by Boss Pendergast, head of the corrupt Kansas City machine. Truman himself made no bones about it, and even acknowledged Pendergast as a warm personal friend. After he took his seat, the Senators on both sides of the political line began to respect him because he worked hard and intelligently. He did not emerge into the National limelight until some time ~~lax~~ after Pearl Harbor, when he became Chairman of the Committee to investigate the conduct of the war. At that

most people admit he has done a good job.

Truman is sixty years old. His first job was bottle duster in a drug store. He studied law two years, lost his shirt running a haberdashery shop at Independence, Missouri, and after the First World War served three terms of County Judge. In the war he commanded a battery of field artillery and was demobilized with the rank of Major.

Nobody has yet ventured a public guess at the real reason for the desertion of the Truman cause by Mayor Kelly. It may be the reason he gave. But in the political scene there are always suspicions. Of course, Kelly's action stimulated the hopes of the supporters of Vice President Henry Wallace. It also gave a shot in the arm to the candidacy of Senator Barkley of Kentucky, "Dear Alben."

Dear Alben got a warm hand this afternoon when he nominated President Roosevelt for his Fourth Term. The man who bitterly lashed into his Chief on the floor of the Senate several months ago -- today compared him

with Thomas Jefferson, Andrew Jackson, Abraham Lincoln, Grover Cleveland, and Woodrow Wilson. In fact, according to the Kentucky Senator, Franklin Delano Roosevelt combines all the finest qualities of all his predecessors.

His leadership, said Barkley has been unsurpassed in the history of the United States if, indeed it has ever been equalled. He declared that Mr. Roosevelt had restored our financial institutions, rebuilt agricultural prosperity, reduced unemployment, and given to labor the boon of collective bargaining, minimum wages, and maximum hours. Barkley also praised unemployment insurance and the abolition of child labor.

The Senator made a passing reference to his quarrel with Mr. Roosevelt over the tax bill. He had not always agreed with the President, he admitted, and added that if he ever has occasion to disagree in the future on any policy of course of action, he will do it again. But, he continued, it is one thing to differ from a friend, even though he be President. It is quite another to discard him.

Barkley attacked the Republican's for saying the Administration is composed of old men. No birth certificate said he, can or will constitute the prime qualification for the Presidency of these United States.

The same question of old age was taken up this morning by Senator Jackson of Indiana, permanent chairman of the convention. President Roosevelt he said, is in the full vigor and flower of his energy. And Jackson added that Mr. Roosevelt has more rugged vitality even today than any two men the opposition have to offer.

The finish of Barkley's nomination speech was the cue for one of those difficult, wild convention hullabaloes. The delegates paraded cheering and shouting more than half an hour. All the state's joined in except the delegations from Virginia, Mississippi, and Texas. They sat fast in their chairs unmoved and silent. But somebody snatched the Texas placard so it joined the parade anyway.

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It is a foregone conclusion that the President will be nominated tonight on the first ballot. The supporters of Senator Harry Byrd of Virginia and other Southern opponents of the Fourth term, claim there will be a hundred and forty votes or more against Mr. Roosevelt. In any event, the fight will be academic without the faintest doubt about the outcome.

Following his renomination the President will speak to the Convention and to the country at large over that air.

HITLER:

In Chicago today, one topic of conversation overshadowed even the Convention, even the bitter fight for the Vice Presidential nomination. The most exciting news for delegates and spectators alike, was the bulletin telling of the latest attempt to blow up Adolf Hitler. This time the Fuehrer escaped by a far narrower margin. However, he did escape; with slight burns and bruises. The official Nazi news agency announced that the singed Fuehrer then went back to work and had a conference with Mussolini, the now much befuddled Duce.

We are not told where all this occurred, or whom they suspect. The guessing is that they will lay it at the door of either the British Secret Service, the Polish Underground or agents of the Soviet.

Though the Fuehrer escaped, several of the men around him were seriously injured, including several of his most intimate associates, one a Lieutenant General, and another Col. Gen. Alfred Jodl, his chief of military staff.

All this reminds us of the time bomb at a

Veteran's Reunion in the Munich beer cellar on the night of November eighth, 1939. On that occasion Hitler had left the hall fifteen minutes before the bomb exploded. But eight people were killed and sixty injured. A few days later, the Gestapo arrested two British agents, kidnapped them from Venlo, Holland, and accused them of having instigated the explosion. The Nazis never told the world what happened to them but British authorities believe the Gestapo executed them.

Since then, there have been several rumors of attempts to assassinate the Fuehrer, but none of them were ever verified.

In Washington, reporters asked Secretary of State Hull what he had to say. The Secretary replied that he would be glad to comment copiously if the Fuehrer's injuries had been serious enough.

INVASION

In Normandy, Nazi Marshal Rommel threw an army of fifty thousand men into the breach to stem the advance of the British beyond Caen. All of which did not prevent Montgomery's men from capturing Vimont on the main railroad to Paris. The impetus of the drive by which the British took the German's by surprise yesterday, carried them eight miles beyond the enemy lines. but now it has begun to slow up.

The Nazis put out a story that a new Allied army is now in action in Normandy, an army commanded by Lieutenant General George S. Patton, an army composed of Americans and Canadians. The Allied Supreme command so far has declined to make any comment on this.

AIR WAR

Good flying weather in Europe, and so Uncle Sam's Eighth and Fifteenth Air Forces attacked fourteen targets in Germany. The raiders based on Britain and Italy included nearly three thousand planes. The skies were filled with fleets of Flying Forts and Liberators, escorted by fighters. This time they dropped more than four thousand tons of bombs.

This was the fifth day of a continuing daylight offensive, concentrated principally on Leipzig, Munich, and Friedrichshafen, bombing engine factories, assembly plants, synthetic oil plants, and other strategic objectives.

ROBOMBS

The Germans continued their attack on England with Robot bombs all 1 st night and today . But the attack was not as extensive as before and there were longer intervals between the arrival of the flying torpedoes.

Evidently the Nazis are establishing launching platforms at new points. A squadron of British Lancaster bombers last night attacked a large depot, which had been set up in some limestone caves, about thirty miles northwest of Paris. These caves were formerly used as mushroom farms and make ideal storage places for the bombs. One story from England is that some of the flying torpedoes came from the direction of Holland, indicating that the Nazis have erected platforms there.

The Tokyo radio today took up the chorus of rumors that the Nazis are about to let loose a flock of tremendous flying robots on New York. The Nazis have been putting out that story for some days. They profess to have projectiles weighing ten tons each, traveling at a speed of seven thousand, five hundred miles an hour, that fly through the stratosphere so as to be

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immune to interception. So the Nazis claim.

The launching platforms afor these monsters are supposed to be in Western Jutland. But agents of the Danish underground have been investigating the story and have found no trace of such launching platforms.

ITALY

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The doughboys of the Fifth Army in Italy have splashed ahead on a twenty-five mile front as far as the Arno River, through a drenching rain. They are now in possession of more than half the plain between Pisa and Florence.

On the Adriatic side, the Poles of the Eighth Army, under Sir Oliver Leese, have driven up the coast eight miles beyond Ancona, while the Fifth is an equal distance North of Leghorn. All in all, the Allies of both armies are plowing right into the Gothic line across Italy about which the Nazis have boasted so much.

The Germans are retreating so fast that the Allies have difficulty keeping in contact with them.

RUSSIA

Two big items of news from Russia to night. First of all, a new offensive West and Northwest of Koel in Poland. Stalin, in a special order of the day, described it as an offensive of mammoth proportions, proceeding on a front ninety-three miles wide which has already pushed ahead for thirty-one miles, and has driven to the verge of the powerful defense line which the Germans have erected along the Bug River South of Brest-Litovsk.

This is the eighth full scale drive that the Red Armies have launched now in less than a month. It began three days ago, but was only reported today. The First White Russian Army has already outflanked Brest-Litovsk on the South, and is within forty-seven miles of Lublin, a railroad junction and Nazi stronghold guarding Warsaw.

All in all, **W** no fewer than nine Soviet armies are attacking the German defenses along an eight hundred mile front. The third White Russian army is already battering at the gates of East Prussia. And still another

has captured two big German strongholds North of Lvov. Dispatches from the front line report that the Nazi defenses in front of Lvov are already crumbling and bound to fall before long to the overwhelming might of the Russian steam-roller.

JAPAN

The news from Japan if anything caused more excitement here at the convention than any one thing so far. For it is regarded as far more important than any mere attempt on Hitler's life. And there is much comment today over the word that General Kuniaki Koiso and Admiral Mitsumasa Yonai are in Japan, regarded as friendly to the United States and Britain, or were before Pearl Harbor. In fact, Yonai was the Japanese Prime Minister for six months in Nineteen Forty. It was he whom Tojo succeeded, as the representative and leader of the extremist war lord clique in Tokyo.

Tojo and his entire cabinet, as we learned late yesterday, resigned after confessing they could not win the war. National Democratic Chairman Hannagin gives the first word at the convention and it causes a sensation. Tojo also resigned as head of the Society which represents the Totalitarian Party in Japan,

The natural ~~man~~ interpretation is that General Koiso and Admiral Yonai have thrust into the job as a preliminary to peace overtures. The official

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Japanese news agency reported that Koiso and Yonai visited the Emperor at Five o'clock Tokyo time today, and received the honor awarded them with great trepidation.

At Chungking as well as at Washington the appointment of pro-American and pro-British leaders to succeed Tojo is naturally regarded as a sign that we soon may expect a proposal for a negotiated peace.

But acting Secretary of War Patterson warns us today that Koiso and Yonai may be just window-dressing. We have yet to learn who else will constitute the new Tokyo cabinet. The chances are, said Patterson, that the new ministers of the army and the navy may be the toughest and most ruthless commanders in Nippon and he added that the Jap's need not think that any change in their government will make us forget either what happened at Pearl Harbor, or their savage treatment of prisoners.

Secretary Patterson also reminds us that at the very beginning, people who knew the Japanese, predicted

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ted something of this sort. They prophesied that as soon as the Japs met with heavy reverses, they would bring out leaders pretending to be friendly to the United States and Great Britain.

Hitler has been bombed and burned a bit, but not enough; Tojo is out; F.D.R. has just been ~~re~~ nominated for a fourth term; I'm on my way back to the convention hall -- and Hugh will you take over.